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ABSTRACT

The stories of gang members and former gang members show that positive solutions can be found to the crisis of American urban youth. Personal experiences and challenges similar to those faced by young black students are used to indicate that there is hope. It is evident that poor black youth cannot survive or become part of the mainstream in America without economic improvement. Interviews with gang members and former gang members make it apparent that even the most cynical want to get an education and find the "hope factor." Opening chapters review the crisis state in which urban children exist and the problems of equal education and of race and class in education. Chapters 3 through 5 focus on particular situations, describing the Westside Center in Pasadena (California), some California gangs, and Pace School, Los Angeles County. Chapter 6 reviews institutional racism and renewal and discusses a case study in the Boston (Massachusetts) secondary schools. Chapter 7 presents an agenda to save urban youth through a curriculum of love. (Contains 44 references.) (SLD)

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